

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

WILLIAM LAMAR BURNETT,

:

Plaintiff,

:

vs.

: CIVIL ACTION 10-0434-CG-C

JUSTIN SKAGGS, et al.,

:

Defendants.

:

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Plaintiff, an Alabama prison inmate proceeding pro se, filed a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Doc. 1), together with a Motion to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees (Doc. 4)<sup>1</sup>. This action was referred to the undersigned pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 72.2 (c)(4) for appropriate action. It is recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice for Plaintiff's failure to pay the partial filing fee.

Upon review of Plaintiff's Motion to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees (Doc. 4), the Court found that Plaintiff was required to pay a \$21.00 partial filing fee. On August 13, 2010, the Court ordered Plaintiff to pay the partial filing fee by September 21, 2010 (Doc. 5). Plaintiff was warned that his failure to comply with the order within the prescribed time would result in the dismissal of his action. Plaintiff has not paid the partial filing fee, nor has he otherwise

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff's original motion to proceed without prepayment of fees (Doc. 2) was denied because it was on an outdated form and did not have attached to it a copy of his inmate account. Plaintiff was ordered to file a new motion (Doc. 3).

responded to the Court's order.

Due to Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Court's order and to prosecute this action by paying the partial filing fee, the Court recommends that, through its inherent powers, this action be dismissed without prejudice. *Link v. Wabash R.R.*, 370 U.S. 626, 630-31, 82 S.Ct. 1386, 1389 (1962) ("The authority of a court to dismiss sua sponte for lack of prosecution has generally been considered an 'inherent power' governed not by rule or statute but by the control necessarily vested in courts to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases."); *Zocaras v. Castro*, 465 F.3d 479, 483 (11th Cir. 2006) (recognizing a district court's inherent power to enforce orders and provide for the efficient disposition of litigation); *Wilson v. Sargent*, 313 F.3d 1315, 1331-32 & n.7 (11th Cir. 2002) (holding that a prisoner's failure to pay the partial filing fee under § 1915 is a basis for dismissal); *see generally Betty K Agencies, Ltd. v. M/V Monada*, 432 F.3d 1333, 1337-38 (11th Cir. 2005) (discussing dismissals pursuant to the court's inherent power and dismissals based on Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and concluding that only a dismissal *with prejudice* requires findings of contumacious conduct and that lesser sanctions will not suffice).

In the present action, if plaintiff disputes the finding of failure to pay the partial filing fee and wants to proceed with the litigation of his action, he shall set forth in an objection to the report and recommendation the reasons for his failure to pay. *Wilson*, 414 F.3d at 1320 (citing to *Hatchet v. Nettles*, 201 F.3d 651, 654 (5th Cir. 2000) (finding that an objection to a recommendation is an acceptable means to ascertain the steps taken by a prisoner to comply with the order to pay partial filing fee)).

The instructions which follow the undersigned's signature contain important information

regarding objections to the report and recommendation of the Magistrate Judge.

DONE this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2010.

s/WILLIAM E. CASSADY

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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**MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION  
AND FINDINGS CONCERNING NEED FOR TRANSCRIPT**

1. Objection. Any party who objects to this recommendation or anything in it must, within fourteen days of the date of service of this document, file specific written objections with the clerk of court. Failure to do so will bar a de novo determination by the district judge of anything in the recommendation and will bar an attack, on appeal, of the factual findings of the magistrate judge. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); Lewis v. Smith, 855 F.2d 736, 738 (11th Cir. 1988); Nettles v. Wainwright, 677 F.2d 404 (5th Cir. Unit B, 1982)(en banc). The procedure for challenging the findings and recommendations of the magistrate judge is set out in more detail in SD ALA LR 72.4 (June 1, 1997), which provides that:

A party may object to a recommendation entered by a magistrate judge in a dispositive matter, that is, a matter excepted by 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), by filing a "Statement of Objection to Magistrate Judge's Recommendation" within fourteen days after being served with a copy of the recommendation, unless a different time is established by order. The statement of objection shall specify those portions of the recommendation to which objection is made and the basis for the objection. The objecting party shall submit to the district judge, at the time of filing the objection, a brief setting forth the party's arguments that the magistrate judge's recommendation should be reviewed de novo and a different disposition made. It is insufficient to submit only a copy of the original brief submitted to the magistrate judge, although a copy of the original brief may be submitted or referred to and incorporated into the brief in support of the objection. Failure to submit a brief in support of the objection may be deemed an abandonment of the objection.

A magistrate judge's recommendation cannot be appealed to a Court of Appeals; only the district judge's order or judgment can be appealed.

2. Transcript (applicable where proceedings tape recorded). Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(b), the magistrate judge finds that the tapes and original records in this action are adequate for purposes of review. Any party planning to object to this recommendation, but unable to pay the fee for a transcript, is advised that a judicial determination that transcription is necessary is required before the United States will pay the cost of the transcript.